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NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT (NCRTD) EARNS AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR HIGHEST PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN TRANSIT PASSENGER RIDERSHIP IN NEW MEXICO RURAL TRANSIT PROGRAM!

Pojoaque, April 18, 2011 – The Federal Transit Administration, Region 6, located in Fort Worth, TX, presented the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) with an Award of Achievement for having the highest percentage growth in transit passenger ridership in New Mexico in Fiscal Year 2010 under its Federal Section 5311 Rural Transit Program.

The honor was presented April 18, 2011, at the NM Public Transportation Association Conference award luncheon held at Buffalo Thunder Resort. This award was presented by Suleman Shoaib, FTA Regional Engineer, and Lynn Hayes, FTA Transit Planner, on behalf of Robert Patrick the FTA Region 6, Administrator. The NCRTD was the only agency in New Mexico to receive an award of this kind.

The NCRTD received the award based on 364% ridership increase seen between Fiscal Year 2009 (October 2008 – September 2009) when ridership was 45,774 and Fiscal Year 2010 (October 2009 – September 2010) when ridership grew to 166,791.

Jack Valencia, Transit Project Manager of the NCRTD said, “We see a direct and positive impact on ridership in direct correlation to the GRT tax that residents of Los Alamos, Taos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe passed in November 2008. When the NCRTD began to collect the GRT in September 2009 more services were offered and in turn more people utilized the “Blue Bus” service.”

Federal Transit Administration Region 6 serves the Southwest area of the country and includes the states of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico. The NCRTD receives 5311 Rural Transit funds as a sub-grantee under the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

The North Central Regional Transit District provides free bus service in north central New Mexico including Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos Counties. Log on to www.ncrtd.org or call toll free 1-866-206-0754 for schedules.

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